

Application Serial No. 09/316,735
Responsive to the Office Action of March 25, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action mailed on March 25, 2004. This Office Action is identified as being responsive to Applicants' communication filed March 27, 2003.

Applicants did file an Amendment on March 27, 2003. However, Applicants also filed a Supplemental Amendment on February 26, 2004. It appears that the Office Action of March 25, 2004 does not consider the amendments and remarks presented in the Supplemental Amendment.

Michael Lamberty, acting on behalf of the Applicants, spoke with Examiner Nguyen by telephone regarding this matter on May 13, 2004. Examiner Nguyen advised that a Response must be sent in reply to the Office Action of March 25, 2004, pointing out that the timely-filed Supplemental Amendment was not considered in that Office Action. The Supplemental Amendment then will receive consideration. If the claims are not considered allowable in view of the Supplemental Amendment, a new Office Action will be issued including consideration for the Supplemental Amendment.

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for his assistance in this matter.

Pursuant to the aforementioned telephone conversation, Applicants respectfully request consideration for the amendments and remarks presented in the Supplemental Amendment of February 26, 2004. A copy of the Supplemental Amendment is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. In view of the Supplemental Amendment, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. In the event that the claims are not considered allowable, Applicants respectfully request that a new non-final Office Action be issued that considers the amendments and remarks presented in the Supplemental Amendment of February 26, 2004.

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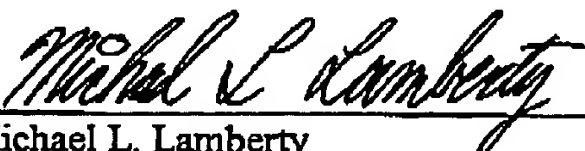
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Michael L. Lamberty (Reg. No. 50,760) at (612) 336-4789, or Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Michael D. Schumann (Reg. No. 30,422), at (612) 336-4638.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 6/3/04



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MDS/MLL